

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

HAMNET

BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY

6 August 2006

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League that provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

Bulletin compiled and prepared by Francois - ZS6BUU

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HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN - Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.060 and/or 3.650MHz. KZN also have a Wednesday evening call-up and meeting on their 2M repeater system with the introduction of an 80M relay on 3.650MHz.

The National Bulletin is read at 12H00 CAT on 7,070MHz. We have had to go back to the old frequency as we are interfering with late bulletins on 7:062MHz. Please watch this space!

The Gauteng North bulletin will probably also change due to the appointment of a new Provincial Director. We await further instructions.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province meets on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The bulletin is distributed to all Provincial Directors for reading on their local repeaters a few days prior to the first Sunday of every month for reading on their local repeaters.

The HAMNET section of the SARL website is open to all amateur radio operators. We decided on this for two reasons, to encourage non League members to join the League and also to encourage newly licensed amateurs to consider joining HAMNET.

Please also note that HAMNET is a voluntary, non profit group of amateurs who use their communication skills to assist and help others in distress during and after disasters. HAMNET forms part of the Constitution of the South African Radio League, which means that you have to be a member of the SARL to be a member of HAMNET.

COLD SNAP - REPORTS

To say the least, it was a busy 3 days from 1 to 4 August with this massive cold front moving across the country.

I decided to send out an advisory when I realised that this snap is going to severe - and I was proven right.

At approx.06:05 on Wednesday morning, my first SMS came from Jannie, ZS4JR, indicating that things are beginning to deteriorate in the Harrismith area, including van Rheezen Pass.

Next was Len from Aliwal North indicating that the N6 from Reddersburg to Bloemfontein was impassable due to snow!

Soon after that I had a call from Memel indicating that the R34 from Vrede over Botha's Pass to Newcastle had also been closed. This happened so fast I forgot the name of the person who phoned me, but thank you very much.

Later in the day we also heard of severe flooding in the George/Mossel Bay area, then Port Elizabeth with the Baakens River bursting its banks and the Lootsberg Pass between Graaff Reinett and Middelburg also being closed due to snow.

By the time of writing this bulletin, it's not over yet! Heavy rain is predicted along the eastern half of the Eastern Cape and later Kwa Zulu Natal. We ran quite a network on 7:060 during Thursday & Friday monitoring the situation in Port Elizabeth with regular reports from Ken ZS20C.

We informed Jamline via the Internet of all the road closures around the country.

Many thanks to those who did and still are monitoring the 40M band during the day!

TELECONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 21ST AUGUST

The delayed teleconference, to discuss the Minutes of Strategic Planning Meeting, will now take place on the 21st of August at 7pm.

All those who participated in the original meeting barring one or two will be informed closer to the time of the upcoming conference.

Basically, it is just to decide on any changes to the Minutes and to plan ahead regarding the decisions taken.

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES - REPORT

The month of July was fairly quiet around the world when it came to natural disasters. However, man made problems headed the list!

The only disaster of real consequence was the earth quake and subsequent tsunami that hit Java.

From an article downloaded from the Relief Web site, people recall of a wall of water that headed toward them and the subsequent panic. As one resident said, "I heard the noise and looked out to the sea. My heart stopped! There was this huge wall of water rushing toward me".

They all knew what it was. Yet another tsunami!

She grabbed her child and outran the water as it was coming up the sea shore.

The death toll reached the 500 plus mark but many residents are still too scared to return to their villages and start rebuilding their destroyed homes. Approximately 23, 000 people were displaced by this tsunami.

Conflict in Israel & Lebanon obviously is also high on the Relief Web site and one can only but pray that this situation will soon resolve itself as the destruction of infrastructure in both countries is of great cause for concern. Rebuilding could take years and all the displaced people will have to accommodated in other ways which will make life very difficult for the foreseeable future.

Other disasters in order of continent:-

Africa!

Mauritania - floods in July

Somalia and Sudan - internal strife and warring between War Lords causing untold misery on the villagers!

Asia!

An earthquake in Tajikistan, floods in Korea and China with mudslides due to rain in Pakistan.

The Americas!

Floods in Chile

Europe!

Floods in the Ukraine, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro who also had landslides due to heavy rain!

In other parts of Europe, unseasonably hot weather swept across Europe and the U.K. causing water restrictions in some parts of England.

NEWS FROM REGIONS

From Aliwal North - Len ZR4L!

Again, Len, ZR4L, made the news headlines with an article in their local newspaper called the “Aliwal Weekblad”.

A picture showed their radio room setup which covers Netcare 911 and HAMNET. The idea eventually is to set up a 24/7 situation which will cover an area which includes Zastrand, Burgersdorp, Bethulie, Molteno, Venterstad, Maclear, Barkly East, Rhodes, Lady Grey and naturally Aliwal North.

Len has spent a lot of time showing and demonstrating the value of radio and amateur Radio in emergency situations. The authorities eventually agreed with Len and the end result now can be seen in this article.

Again, well done len for all your efforts!

Congratulations to Pierre Tromp, ZS1HF, who obtained the Siemens Amateur Radio Award of the year at a gala lunch held at the Midrand Protea Hotel on Wednesday the 2nd of August.

Pierre was honoured with this award for all the work he has put into HAMNET and it is fitting that Pierre should get this award for all the work he has put into Hamnet activities in the Western Cape and compiling the training modules with Keith Lowes ZS5WFD and Glenham Duffy ZS5GD.

Well done Pierre.

Francois, ZS6BUU, has been negotiating with the Disaster Management authorities in Kimberley, and secured an invitation to demonstrate the value of Amateur Radio when their Northern Cape Disaster Management Planning Conference comes up in September.

It was originally scheduled for late August, but has been postponed to accommodate some delegates who had other commitments.

I look forward to this presentation and hope to establish the name HAMNET in their minds when it comes to volunteer groups in an emergency.

Lastly, just a reminder of my changed e-mail address as given below!

That is all for today. Comments and suggestions to: jfbotha@iburst.co.za

More information available on www.sarl.org.za <http://www.sarl.org.za/> then click on HAMNET in the left hand column for all the details you may need. Bulletin ends.